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AIR DISTRICT PRESENTS SEVENTH ANNUAL *EXEMPLAR* AWARDS

Victorville – The U.S. Army’s foremost armored vehicle training center and the High Desert’s key city were recognized today for their pollution prevention efforts, as the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (MDAQMD) presented its 2002/2003 *Exemplar* Awards during its monthly Governing Board meeting held in Victorville.

The National Training Center & Fort Irwin received a record fifth *Exemplar* Award for making significant enhancements to its multi-year dust mitigation program, which has dramatically reduced dust and airborne particles at the 1,050 square mile installation since its launch in 1997. Recent enhancements to the program include treatment of 17 miles of tank trails and 21 acres of dust-prone training areas with 81,000 gallons of dust suppressant; rehabilitation of 66 acres of land through the planting of 330 native shrubs, for dust and erosion control; and application of 800 tons of “California Gold” aggregate within the cantonment area for fugitive dust control.

In 2003, Fort Irwin further bolstered their commitment to the environment by adding 102 Global Electric Motorcars (GEMs) to their vehicle fleet, hence bringing the total GEMs used on base to 120. By utilizing their fleet of zero-emission autos in lieu of gasoline-powered vehicles, Fort Irwin expects to reduce vehicular emissions by 87 tons over the next five years. The 2002/2003 *Exemplar* Award was accepted by Lt. Colonel Jeffrey S. Ogden, Director of Public Works at Fort Irwin, Muhammad Bari, Environmental Division Chief and Mark Burns, Air Quality Program Manager.

The City of Victorville’s Public Works Department received the MDAQMD’s highest honor for opening the City’s second refueling station for compressed natural gas (CNG), also known as the cleanest burning motor fuel on today’s market. In response to growing demand by local agencies – and due to the expansion of its own CNG-fueled transit vehicle and heavy equipment fleets - the City of Victorville set out to construct a state-of-the-art combination fast/slow fill CNG refueling station that would provide easy access to both local users and I-15 travelers, 24 hours a day. With the assistance of grant funds provided by the MDAQMD, the Public Works Department completed construction of the alternative fuel station at the City’s maintenance yard in February 2003. By July, the McArt Road refueling site had dispensed more than 30,000

equivalent diesel gallons. The City of Victorville Public Works Department's award was accepted by Councilman Mike Rothschild, City Manager Jon Roberts and Guy Patterson, Director of Public Works.

San Bernardino County First District Supervisor Bill Postmus - who also serves as Chair of the MDAQMD Governing Board - and Air Pollution Control Officer Chuck Fryxell presented the awards.

The *Exemplar* Awards recognize High Desert entities that demonstrate an exceptional commitment to clean air through the development of voluntary activities/projects that reduce or prevent air pollution within the MDAQMD's jurisdiction. The *Exemplar* Awards are presented each fall by the local regulatory air agency in association with National Pollution Prevention Week.

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